

Hench et al. describe a Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) nuclear power plant that includes a safety monitor configured to provide summary information of a plurality of operating systems to an operator (Col. 3, lines 40-44). The safety monitor is operational at all times, but is not intended for use during normal operation of the plant (Col. 3, lines 58-60). The safety monitor includes an interpreter logic (22) that operates in standby mode during normal operation, (Col. 10, lines 15-16), and a keyboard (16) including a plurality of pushbuttons (1-6) for calling up a system status, and a plurality of pushbuttons (7-11) for calling up graphical trend displays (Col. 4, lines 30-32). The system status display shows abnormal or accident conditions, and the trend displays show the trend of selected parameters (Col. 4, lines 30-35). The primary output (graphical trend displays) is displayed unless an operator selects a secondary output by pushing a button associated with that display. The secondary display is displayed as long as the button is depressed. A CRT screen (9) automatically reverts to the primary display when the button is released (Col. 10, lines 6-12). Hench et al. also describe that the messages received by the safety monitor alert an operator so that the operator can confirm the incorrect alignment and take proper corrective action.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentably distinguishable over Hench et al. Specifically, Claim 1 recites a method for operating a system having a plurality of modes and interlocks between the modes, wherein the method includes “operating the system in a first mode; and switching the system to a second mode without going to a standby mode.”

Hench et al. do not describe nor suggest a method for operating a system having a plurality of modes and interlocks between the modes, wherein the method includes operating the system in a first mode, and switching the system to a second mode without going to a standby mode. Moreover, Hench et al. do not describe nor suggest a method for operating a system having a plurality of modes and interlocks between the modes, wherein the method includes switching a system to a second mode without going to a standby mode. Rather, and in contrast to the present invention, Hench et al. describe a Water Reactor (BWR) nuclear power plant that includes a safety monitor not intended for use during normal operation of the plant. Hench et al. also describe the safety monitor includes an interpreter logic that operates in standby mode during normal operation. Applicant respectfully traverses the assertion in the Office Action that Hench et al. describe a fail safe logic wherein the mode of operation is automatically changed on the display screen without going to a standby mode. Rather, Hench

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et al. describe a safety monitor that includes an interpreter logic that operates in standby mode during normal operation. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Hench et al.

Claims 2-6 depend directly from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-6 likewise are patentable over Hench et al.

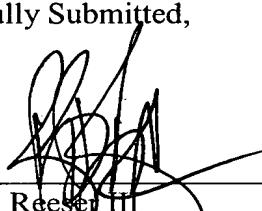
Claims 20-25 are newly added. Claim 20 recites a method for fabricating a system having a plurality of modes and interlocks between the modes, wherein the method includes “providing a system that includes a first operational mode and a second operational mode; coupling a computer including a fail safe logic program to the system; and configuring the fail safe logic program to automatically switch the system from the first operational mode to the second operational mode without going to a standby mode.”

Hench et al. do not describe nor suggest a method for fabricating a system having a plurality of modes and interlocks between the modes, wherein the method includes providing a system that includes a first operational mode and a second operational mode, coupling a computer including a fail safe logic program to the system, and configuring the fail safe logic program to automatically switch the system from the first operational mode to the second operational mode without going to a standby mode. Moreover, Hench et al. do not describe nor suggest a method for fabricating a system having a plurality of modes and interlocks between the modes, wherein the method includes providing a system that includes a first operational mode and a second operational mode, coupling a computer including a fail safe logic program to the system, and configuring the fail safe logic program to automatically switch the system from the first operational mode to the second operational mode without going to a standby mode. Rather, and in contrast to the present invention, Hench et al. describe a Water Reactor (BWR) nuclear power plant that includes a safety monitor not intended for use during normal operation of the plant. Hench et al. also describe that the safety monitor includes an interpreter logic that operates in standby mode during normal operation. Applicant respectfully traverses the assertion in the Office Action that Hench et al. describe a fail safe logic wherein the mode of operation is automatically changed on the display screen without going to a standby mode. Rather, Hench et al. describe a safety monitor including an interpreter logic that operates in standby mode during normal operation. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Hench et al.

Claims 21-25 depend directly from independent Claim 20. When the recitations of Claims 21-25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 20, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 21-25 likewise are patentable over Hench et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Applicant: Robert W. Droege

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Filed: December 19, 2001

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For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR  
OPERATING A SYSTEM

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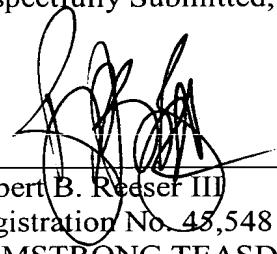
Submitted herewith are marked up paragraphs in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121(b)(1)(iii), wherein additions are underlined and deletions are [bracketed].

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

At paragraph 21:

Second logic mode 104 includes a second mode arm switch 210, a second mode initiate switch 212, a plurality of logic functions, such as, but not limited to, an OR gate 220, an OR gate 222, an OR gate 224, an AND gate 226, an AND gate 228, and an AND gate 230. [First] Second logic mode 104 also includes a pulse output timer 240, a pulse output timer 242, a pulse output timer 244, a pulse output timer 246, a delay initiation timer 250, and a flip-flop 260.

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